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ABSTRACT

A checkbook learning activity which is adaptable to all grades, ages, and subject areas is described. The four reasons given for using checks in the classroom are to provide practice for students in computational skills, to increase student motivation, to provide real-world experience, and to replace the teacher's grading system. The following directions are given to the teacher for this activity: (1) make deposits into the students' accounts to compensate for "fines," "rent," and other regularly deducted items so that grades (subsequent "deposits") are based on students' academic performances; (2) give each student a checkbook containing 75 checks for a nine-week period at the first of the year; (3) make extra checks available for "fines" and "taxes"; (4) offer to make deposits into students' accounts for doing extra credit work and special projects; (5) enable students to make deposits for doing homework and taking tests; (6) have students make deposits at the end of each week; and (7) have students make their own deposits at the end of the nine-week period to determine a grade. Included are samples of deposits and withdrawals, and an example of a teacher's balance sheet to be used as a grade record. (EM)

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Checkbook Education

A MOTIVATING CLASSROOM IDEA!

By

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September, 1980

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Checkbook Education

AN INTRODUCTION TO REALITY

Checks are used much more than cash in most communities. Checks can be used in the classroom to: (1) increase student motivation; (2) give practice in basic computational skills; (3) give students "real world" experiences; and (4) replace the teacher's grading system. Checkbook Education is not restricted to any age group or subject area. The idea has been used successfully in junior and senior high school classes, home economics classes, elementary school programs, and even in a summer camp for learning disabled and emotionally disturbed children.

Teachers can adapt the idea to suit their own needs. Balances will change with respect to the number of tests and homework papers given. An example of a teacher balance sheet is provided. The balance sheet can replace teacher gradebooks - teachers and students always know where they stand, simply by checking their weekly balance!

TO BEGIN:

Most banks are very good about donating sample checkbooks, registers, and even covers. Why do students need the covers when the checkbooks will only be used in class? The answer is MOTIVATION! When you make it real, it really works! The teacher may need to visit more than one bank to get enough checkbooks, but the extra effort is worth it. Students are usually very good about not losing their checkbooks.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TEACHERS TO:

Compensate for fines, rent, and other regularly deducted items so that the grading remains based solely on student's academic performance. To ensure this, the teacher begins the semester by depositing the anticipated student expenditures. (see sample).

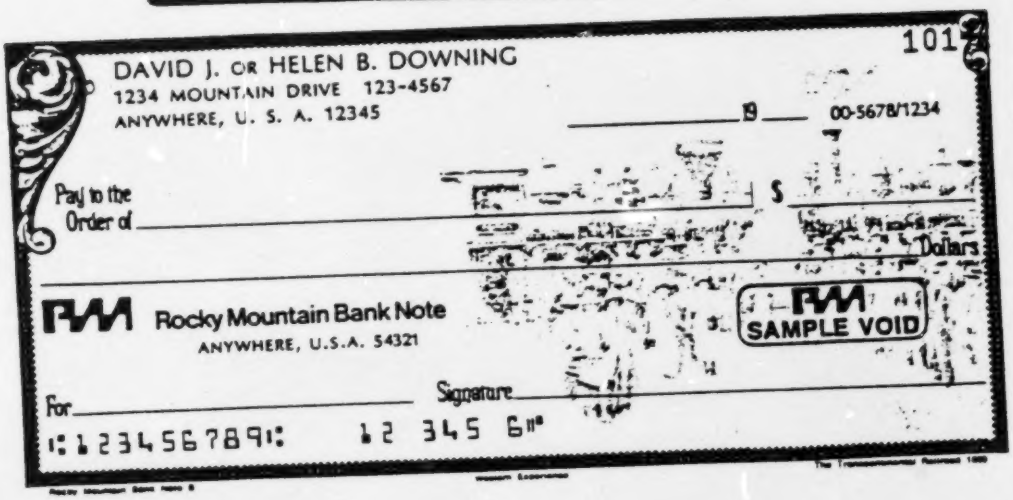
HOW IT WORKS

At the first of the year, each student is given a checkbook containing about 75 check. This should be enough for a check per week for about four nine week periods. There are extra checks for "fines" and "taxes" that students need to pay at least every nine weeks. Teachers can further motivate students by offering to deposit money into their accounts for doing extra credit and special projects.

The students receive money (deposited into their "account") by doing their homework and taking tests. Each paper will have a worth. For example, a paper with 20 problems on it might be worth five dollars. In addition, tests could be given a worth of 100 dollars.

At the end of each week, each student will make a deposit. The deposit slips are given with the checks. At the end of the nine week period, the student will have his/her own deposit which will determine a grade. For example, if the total amount that could be earned was $900.00, then 90% of that would be an A, 80% a B, and so on. If students are working in a pass/fail situation, then the cut-off point would be 60% or $540.00.

This is the type of sample checks that banks are often willing to donate.



This is an example of how students would keep track of their work and their grades by keeping their checkbooks balanced.

10	25	To				Pay't or Dep.	100 00
	82	For Opening #100		100	00	Bal.	100 00
10	25	To				Pay't or Dep.	7 00
	82	For Hard work		7	00	Bal.	107 00
10	26	To				Pay't or Dep.	10 00
	82	For Home work		10	00	Bal.	117 00
10	27	To				Pay't or Dep.	10 00
	82	For Home work		10	00	Bal.	127 00
10	24	To				Pay't or Dep.	3 00
	82	For Spelling Test		3	00	Bal.	130 00
10	29	To				Pay't or Dep.	10 00
	82	For Logic Answers		10	00	Bal.	140 00
10	1	To				Pay't or Dep.	5 00
	82	For Logic Answers		5	00	Bal.	145 00

REMINDER: RECORD AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS OR DEPOSITS ON DATE OF TRANSACTION

RECORD ALL TRANSACTIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR ACCOUNT

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENTS—DEBITS—FEES OR DEPOSITS—CREDITS	AMOUNT OF PAYMENT-DEBIT OR FEE (-)	T	AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT OR CREDIT (+)	BALANCE FORWARD
						14500
	11 2	To			9 00	Pay't or Dep. 9 00
		For Home work				
	11 2	To			24 00	Pay't or Dep. 24 00
		For Test				
	11 3	To			14 00	Pay't or Dep. 14 00
		For Test Corrections				
	11 10	To			9 00	Pay't or Dep. 9 00
		For Homework				
	11 12	To	25 00			Pay't or Dep. 25 00
		For Make up Check				
	11 13	To			10 00	Pay't or Dep. 10 00
		For Homework				
	11 12	To			5 00	Pay't or Dep. 186 00
		For Spelling Test				
	11 12	To			5 00	Pay't or Dep. 191 00
		For Homework				
	11 12	To	25 00			Pay't or Dep. 196 00
		For Check				
	11 13	To			10	Pay't or Dep. 10 00
		For Homework				
	11 19	To			10 00	Pay't or Dep. 10 00
		For Homework				
	11 19	To	25 00			Pay't or Dep. 25 00
		For Weekly Check				
	11 19	To			4 00	Pay't or Dep. 4 00
		For Spelling Test				

REMINDER: RECORD AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS OR DEPOSITS ON DATE OF TRANSACTION

THIS IDEA CAN BE ADAPTED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. IN THE SAMPLE ABOVE, THE STUDENTS RECEIVED A WEEKLY PAYCHECK. NOTICE ALSO HOW THEY WERE GIVEN CREDIT FOR MAKING TEST CORRECTIONS.

Name	Bal	D	W	A-S	Bal	D	W	A-S	Bal	D	W	A-S	Bal	D	W	A-S	Bal	
		Bal → Balance																
		D → Deposit																
		W → Withdrawal																
		A-S → Add or SubTract																